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To Request a Presentation

Contact the nearest ISP Headquarters or call the Safety Education Unit at (217) 524-2525 for more information or to request a presentation.

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SEATS



SEAT

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CHILD SAFETY SEATS

THE FOUR GOLDEN RULES TO CHILD SAFETY SEATS

- 1.** Be sure your child is in the appropriate seat for the child's size and weight.
- 2.** Be sure the child safety seat is appropriate for your vehicle (read the owner's manual for both the child safety seat and your vehicle to determine this.)
- 3.** Place your child in the safety seat properly each time.
- 4.** Register your child safety seat with the manufacturer to be notified of any recalls that may affect your child safety seat.

THE LAW

The Child Passenger Protection Act was established to protect the health and safety of children through the proper use of "approved child restraint systems."* Significant provisions of the Act include:

Children under age four must be secured in a child safety seat.

Persons four years of age, but under 16, must be secured in a child safety seat or seat belt regardless of seat position in the vehicle.

Persons four years of age or older, but under the age of 18, must be secured by a child safety seat or safety belt when the vehicle they are riding in is driven by a person under the age of 18.

Parents or legal guardians of a child under four are responsible for providing an approved child safety seat to anyone who transports his or her child.

*"Approved child restraint systems" refers to any device which meets the standards of the United States Department of Transportation.

WARNING: Never place a baby in a rear facing safety seat in a vehicle which has a front passenger side air bag. All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.

SEAT BELTS

WEARING YOUR SEAT BELT CORRECTLY

- ✓ Lap belts, as well as the lap portion of a lap/shoulder belt combination, should be adjusted so that they lie low across the hips and over the upper thighs. Lap belts should not lie across the abdomen. To be most effective, they must lie over the pelvis, one of the stronger bones of the body. Adjust the lap belt so that it is snug. Any slack allows the body to move around during a crash and increases the risk of injury.
- ✓ The shoulder belt should lie across the chest and over the collarbone with little, if any, slack. It should not lie across the front of the neck or face.
- ✓ Lap/shoulder seat belts, when used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent.
- ✓ FOR LIGHT TRUCK OCCUPANTS, SEAT BELTS REDUCE THE RISK OF FATAL INJURY BY 60 PERCENT.

THE LAW

In Illinois, the law states that each driver and front seat passenger of a motor vehicle must wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat safety belt. Each driver of a motor vehicle transporting a child four years of age or more, but less than sixteen years of age, shall secure that child in either a child restraint system or in a properly adjusted seat safety belt. The Illinois Graduated Licensing System requires all passengers under 18 years to buckle-up when riding in a vehicle being driven by a person under the age of 18. Also, no person may operate any 1965 or later model vehicle unless the front seats are equipped with two sets of safety belts.

A child must be protected under these Child Passenger Protection Act guidelines:

- under the age of four, secure in a child safety seat.
- four years of age or more, but less than 16 must be secured in a seat belt or child safety seat.
- 16- and 17-year-olds must be secured by a safety belt when the vehicle they are riding in is driven by a person under the age of 18.

CHILD SAFETY SEATS

ARE YOU USING YOUR CHILD SAFETY SEAT CORRECTLY?

- ✓ Is the safety belt routed through and around the child safety seat correctly, according to the manufacturer's instructions?
- ✓ Is the safety belt tight and a locking clip being used if necessary?
- ✓ Is the infant safety seat facing backward, not forward?
- ✓ If the seat comes with a harness:
 - ✓ Is the child snugly secured by the harness?
 - ✓ Is the crotch strap adjusted as short as possible?
 - ✓ Do the lower straps or partial shield rest on or across your child's hips, not abdomen?
 - ✓ Are the shoulder straps snug against the child's chest?
 - ✓ Are the shoulder straps in the proper slots — **BELOW** the shoulder for a *rear facing* seat or **ABOVE** the shoulder for a *forward facing* seat?
 - ✓ If there is a retainer strap or clip to keep the shoulder straps in place, is it secured at armpit level according to the manufacturer's instructions?
 - ✓ Is the shield portion of the seat in the proper position ?
 - ✓ Does the booster seat have the needed upper body support — a lap/shoulder belt, tethered harness, or shield?

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